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March 20, 1962

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TO : EUR/EX -
VIA : INR/EX -
FROM : INR/CS -

SUBJECT: Consolidation of Publications Procurement and
25X1A6a [REDACTED] Positions

25X1A6a Reference is made to Operations Memorandum of March 1, 1962 from the United States Mission in [REDACTED] on the above subject. The Mission states in its last paragraph that the consolidation would be technically feasible but notes that United States specialized interests have not been discussed.

25X1A6a INR believes that intelligence considerations should be paramount in viewing the [REDACTED] Mission's proposal. The [REDACTED] Officer (PPO) acquires publications for 16 Washington Government agencies, including some which have important roles in our foreign policy and defense effort. While Soviet Bloc missions in this country collect great amounts of U. S. publications with ease, the U. S. Government encounters substantial difficulties in acquiring publications of Sino-Soviet Bloc countries.

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It is the duty of Publications Officers to endeavor to satisfy the needs of the Washington intelligence community for Sino-Soviet Bloc printed matter. The fact, which the Mission cites in its OM, that [REDACTED] acquisitions have fallen in volume, indicates how much harder they are to acquire at the present time and that additional effort should be expended to satisfy the U. S. Government's needs for intelligence information contained in the publications. The PPO should not at such a time be saddled with additional duties extraneous to the principal objective of the office, and the management of a staff of 50 or 60 clerks in the Document Center would certainly be time consuming.

The Foreign Service Act of 1946 places upon the Department of State the duty to assist all U. S. Government agencies needing information from or about foreign countries. It has been my experience that whenever publication collection in any country does not meet the needs of the 16 U. S. Government agencies previously mentioned, we promptly receive complaints and even reproaches. Of interest in this connection is a recent approach by CIA which would like to take over the staffing of the whole Publications Procurement Program.

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25X1A6a We have only part-time Publications Procurement Officers at other posts within the [REDACTED] PPO's regional responsibility. These part-timers have other important duties and devote only limited time to publications matters. In some countries this results in inadequate collection and purchases. In attempting to correct this situation we have found it useful for full-time PPOs to make periodic visits to the posts within their area of responsibility to instruct the part-timers and to spend a few days in all the book stores in which publications might be found.

25X1A6a As noted above, the entire Publications Procurement Program is currently the subject of basic discussion with other members of the Washington intelligence community. The present time would appear to be inopportune for the introduction of organizational changes, which might subsequently have to be changed a second time in the near future. For this reason and because of the other considerations previously mentioned, it is requested that additional duties not be assigned at this time to the [REDACTED] PPO. We see no objection to the transfer of the PPO's office from the Administrative Section to the Political Section of the [REDACTED] Mission.

25X1A6a Should continued free access to [REDACTED] PPO at some future date, the situation described in the previous paragraphs would be altered. At that time the proposal contained in the [REDACTED] OM should be considered.

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25X1A6a The comments of the Foreign Publications Branch on [REDACTED] are appended for your information.

After you have had time to note this and its attachments, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the matter with you, particularly if EUR/EX continues to favor consolidation.

Attachments

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cc: INR/CS/FP - [REDACTED]
U.S. Mission [REDACTED]

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INR/CS: [REDACTED]:vfr

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